

SAPC 4234
Copy 3 of 7

12 March 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director/AQUATONE

THROUGH : Project Director of Administration

SUBJECT : Compromise of [REDACTED] Mission

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1. Reference is made to the memorandum forwarded for your review by the Project Director of Administration concerning the subject matter and dated 20 February 1956.

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2. Perhaps you will recall that senior officials of the Security Staff of the project have raised questions regarding the two main areas of concern as outlined in [REDACTED] memorandum early in the project and on several subsequent occasions. At such times we received positive assurance that both the destruction device and the "L" pill were already in the planning of project operations. Specifics as to means of accomplishment were not requested by the undersigned. As there now appears to be some question regarding the arrangements for these necessary safeguards, it seems desirable to record our official feeling on this matter.

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3. These topics have been discussed with appropriate officials in the Office of Security, and with careful deliberation it is the considered opinion of all concerned that we should not undertake any actual [REDACTED] Mission without a completely satisfactory destruction device. Moreover we should consider the need to issue specific instructions to carry and use the "L" pill referred to in [REDACTED] memorandum. In this matter, consideration must be given to the moral and religious aspects of leaving the final decision to the individual. Such instructions would place the ultimate responsibility for this extreme measure with the United States Government. We would also want to assure ourselves that pilot personnel absolutely dispose of the "L" pill in the event they fall into enemy hands and failed to utilize it. Possession would be contrary to our cover explanation and tend to thwart any explanation that the aircraft was on a peaceful flight but merely off course.

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cc: JAC, etc

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SUBJECT: Compromise of [REDACTED] Mission

4. In view of the seriousness of this situation, it is requested that there be an authoritative comment furnished to the Office of Security regarding this matter.

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[REDACTED]
Project Security Officer